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October 18, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU PROMOTES ALCOHOL ALTERNATIVES

Charleston -- Eastern Illinois University will join campuses nationwide in promoting alternatives to alcohol during National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, Oct. 21 to 25.

"The purpose of the week is to explore other options to drinking," said Holly Cofer, Eastern's health education coordinator and advisor to Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA) and the Lifestyles Group. "I'm aware that students are going to drink; our job is to enlighten people to the idea that there are other options to drinking and if they do drink, teach them how to do so responsibly."

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity will be at Charleston High School Tuesday to present "The Drink and the Consequences," an alcohol awareness event consisting of games for students in between classes.

Eric Davidson, Eastern's peer education coordinator, will speak on how to become

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ALCOHOL

a certified substance abuse specialist at 8 p.m., Wednesday, in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Oakland Room. The event is free and open to the public.

The Lifestyles Group is sponsoring a Mocktail Party from 7 to 9 p.m., Thursday. All Eastern students are invited to four Greek Court houses and four residence halls to taste at least eight different non-alcoholic drinks.

Lynette Drake, director of Eastern's Health Services, will present "A Hard Cold Look at Reality," a coronor slide show of Coles County fatalities caused by drunk driving accidents at 7 p.m., Tuesday, in Carman Hall and at the same time Wednesday in Taylor Hall.

Eastern's Health Education Resource Center will have an information table set up all week in the Union Walkway for anyone who would like more information.

Other events Eastern is promoting during the week as bar and alcohol alternatives include a pancake dinner with 25 cent pancakes from 9 p.m. to midnight, Wednesday, in Taylor Hall. Bowling will be available from 6 to 10:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Union basement with a game and free shoes for 75 cents. Ford Hall will hold free bingo at 9:30 p.m., Friday. Coffee, cards and music will be available from 9 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, in the Monestary Coffee House at the Newman Catholic Center. And the Wesley Foundation will offer dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, at the Lighthouse. The bar alternatives are open to the public.

For more information, call Holly Cofer at 581-3013.